

REMARKS

Claims 1-288 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 145 are independent claims.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities and to clarify the invention. These modifications do not add any new matter to the disclosure and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

I. TITLE OF THE INVENTION

The Examiner has required a new title of the invention. In response, a new title which the Examiner has suggested, is provided herewith.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION

Claims 1-288 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,213,652) in view of *Goertz et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,295). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that *Suzuki et al.* teaches outputting and receiving a data stream in a device independent format and translating the data stream into a device specific format for the best output device. The Examiner acknowledges that *Suzuki et al.* does not specifically teach selecting a best output device and therefore relies on *Goertz et al.* for teaching a print server that selects a printer suitable for a particular job request. The Examiner

alleges that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply such teachings of *Goertz et al.* to *Suzuki et al.* to provide "a user of *Suzuki et al.* a way to incorporate selection of diverse printer types" as set forth on page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 145 requires, *inter alia*, a document generator configured to translate an input data stream into a data stream having a device independent format, and a computer programmed to translate the received data stream into a device specific data stream for the best output device. That is, Applicants' claimed invention requires two translations of a data stream: (1) translation of an input data stream into a device independent format data stream by a document generator and (2) translation of a received data stream into a device specific data stream for the selected best output device by a computer. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by *Suzuki et al.* and *Goertz et al.*, taken either singularly or in combination thereof. Particularly, *Suzuki et al.* merely discloses converting an input print format of received print data to another print format which a selected printer can process. Similarly, *Goertz et al.* discloses generating print files that a selected printer can process. Both *Suzuki et al.* and *Goertz et al.* receive and process print data with a device- specific format and do not disclose at all the feature of receiving and converting a device independent format data stream into a device-specific data stream as in Applicants' claimed invention.

Therefore, the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 145 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) is patentable over the combination of references as applied by the Examiner, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these reasons is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Title

The title has been amended as follows:

--AUTOMATIC NETWORK DEVICE SELECTION AND DOCUMENT
DELIVERY SYSTEM [NETWORK DOCUMENT DELIVERY SYSTEM]--

In the Specification

The specification has been amended as follows:

On page 1, line 27 through page 2, line 2, have been rewritten as follows:

--Background. Modern business requires that computing environments become more flexible, easy to use, allow for growth, and in particular, be measurable cost effective. A fundamental element of computing environments is the handling of documents. The concept of a "document" is now much more than just a printed piece of paper. A document can be printed in both black and white [and] color, it can be viewed electronically, it can be archived on removable or fixed storage media, and it can be transmitted electronically. Unfortunately, the traditional mechanisms for delivering documents consist of independent solutions. This problem is characteristic of the current device based paradigm for document delivery. It would therefor be desirable to provide a single integrated solution which allows a network user to deliver his

or her document to one or more different destinations or recipients in a single step regardless of the end form in which the document is presented.--

On page 7, lines 9-23 have been rewritten as follows:

--Job parser 20 examines the incoming job for a job ticket and applies default job tickets as requires, then sends the job to routing and affinity processor 21. Routing and affinity processor 21 determines the capabilities required to complete the job successfully and the affinity of each potential output device for the job. Routing and affinity processor 21 assigns an affinity value to each print job based upon the job size, destination and rendering characteristics by comparing the requested features with the available features logged in resource library 25. Available resources may be gathered and logged into resource library 25 by server 13 automatically by polling the network for resources. Additionally, the information may be manually entered by a user or system administrator or it may be input by a combination of the two methods. The job is then routed to a device specific assembler 22, also sometimes called the 'transform', to change the image data to a device specific form. The image data is then sent to the appropriate output device(s) 16 via a communications channel 23. In addition, the current status of each device can be monitored by the main program via communication channel 23.--

On page 12, lines 28-33 have been rewritten as follows:

--The operators preference is given as a single value from one to ten. A higher value gives a higher affinity. Each of the above factors is weighted so that a priority relationship between them can be enforced. A higher priority factor will take precedence over any single factor with a lower priority, and the sum of all factors with lower priorities. The priority standings are as follows: 1) Collation; 2) Stapling; 3) Folding; 4) Stitching, Drilling, Binding, and Cover Insertion; 5) Operator Preference; 6) Cost; and 7) Performance.

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for delivering documents across a network which comprises:

a document generator configured to translate an input data stream into a data stream having a device independent format and to output [a] the device independent format data stream [in a device independent format];

a computer configured to receive the device independent format data stream and programmed to analyze the data stream to determine a best output device by comparing any features required by the data stream with features of any output devices available to the computer; and

the computer further being programmed to translate the device independent data stream into a device specific data stream for the best output device and to transmit the device specific data stream to the best output

device.

145. (Amended) A system for delivering documents across a network which comprises:

a document generator configured to selectively translate an input data stream into a data stream having a device independent format based on selection signals, and to selectively output a data stream in [a format selected from the group of formats consisting of] a device specific format or the [and a] device independent format based on the selection signals;

a computer configured to receive the data stream from the document generator programmed to analyze the data stream to determine a best output device by comparing any features required by the data stream with features of any output devices available to the computer; and

the computer further being programmed to translate the data stream into a device specific data stream for the best output device and to transmit the device specific data stream to the best output device.